

PANAMA COURT CLEARED.

THE SPECTATORS INTERRUPT M. FLOQUET WITH SHOUTS OF "TELL THE TRUTH!"

AN ANGRY COLLOQUY BETWEEN THE WITNESS AND CHARLES DE LESSEPS—THE EX-PRIME MINISTER'S ADMISSION—M. CLEMENCEAU MAKES A SENSATION.

Paris, March 10.—In the Panama trial to-day Charles Floquet, ex-President of the Chamber of Deputies and ex-Premier, was a witness. He was nervous and pale. Before examining him, Judge Desjardins had Charles de Lesseps repeat his testimony as to the contribution of 300,000 francs made at M. Floquet's request by the Panama Company to the fund for the campaign against Boulanger in the Department of the Nord. In concluding his statement M. de Lesseps said:

"I render all homage to the delicacy and loyalty which distinguished M. Floquet's conduct, but I have positively made him to me the exact opposite of what he is in reality. As M. de Lesseps puts the matter, it was much worse than if I had brought pressure to bear upon him, as he complains everybody else did. In his testimony he has forgotten, however, that I did not assume office until April 3, 1888, and that the election took place on April 15, the voting on the Lottery Loan bill on the 27th."

"Nevertheless we have proofs that Baron Reinach sent out the money under your Ministry in 1888," interpolated Charles de Lesseps.

"I do not understand what you mean," replied M. Floquet.

Lord protests came from the body of the court, and several persons shouted: "Tell the truth!" The Presiding Judge's call for order only evoked more shouts, and his voice was lost in the uproar as he threatened to have the court cleared. Both M. de Lesseps and M. Floquet tried to make statements, but neither could be heard more than a few feet away. Each denied that the other had said anything. As the din increased, Judge Desjardins ordered that the courtroom be cleared, and amid a babel of voices shouting reproaches and accusations at the judges the audience was driven out by the ushers. When order was restored M. de Lesseps got the first word, and said clearly and positively:

"I repeat that M. Floquet asked me to see in regard to the report that Baron Reinach intended to sue the Panama Company and that he advised me to pay Baron Reinach the large sum demanded by him, in order that the Government might not be annoyed by the suit."

M. Floquet, after a short pause, admitted that he had talked with M. de Lesseps concerning the Reinach suit. "I knew neither Baron Reinach nor Cornelius Herz, however," he added, "and I am amazed that anybody should make an incident out of this trifling matter. It was at the time of the Boulanger agitation, and popular feeling was being excited by free distributions of money. When I found that the Panama Canal Company was setting aside large sums for advertising, I naturally asked why such amounts should go to fill the exchequer of the enemies of the Republic."

"Did you know the lobbyist Arton?" inquired M. Barbois.

"I saw him once or twice," answered M. Floquet, "but I had no regular relations with him."

M. Clemenceau, the next witness, denied that Cornelius Herz had secured, as Charles de Lesseps testified, about 600,000 francs for the favor of "La Justice" toward the Canal Company. "La Justice" had been pledged to assist the Panama Company, he said, long before the beginning of the scandals, and therefore it was not necessary to buy the support of either the journal or its editor. He then described a visit made by him and A. Ranc, Editor of the "Paris," to M. de Freycinet.

He and M. Ranc had spoken with M. de Freycinet as to Reinach's threatened action against the Panama people, because they feared the action might cause the collapse of the canal enterprise, and that such a collapse would be used to unsettle the Republic.

To prove his statement that he supported the Panama Canal enterprise from the beginning, M. Clemenceau declared that when Ferdinand and Charles de Lesseps visited him in 1889, they came, not in the name of Herz, as Charles de Lesseps now contended, but in the name of M. Carnot, but had advised them to persuade the Deputies to back the undertaking. In this interview M. Clemenceau promised unreservedly to support the Canal Company. M. Clemenceau quoted in corroboration of this statement several letters written subsequently by Charles de Lesseps to M. Carnot and others concerning M. Clemenceau's promise to help the company.

"What kind of a business man would M. de Lesseps then have been?" exclaimed Clemenceau. "To go months afterward, as he says, and pay Herz a large sum to secure my favor? When M. de Lesseps was discounting bills for M. Herz, the latter did not own a single share in 'La Justice'."

M. Clemenceau next made a sensation by turning upon M. Barbois and accusing him of having impudently to the "Figaro" part of the testimony given before Examining Magistrate Franquelin. The lawyer looked petrified as Clemenceau almost shouted this charge against him. He was too much astounded to say a word until Judge Desjardins demanded that he answer Clemenceau at once. Then he said, lamely:

"I will answer in time. I do not care now to come to blows with the witness."

M. de Freycinet, looking tired and harassed, followed M. Clemenceau on the stand. "I sent for Charles de Lesseps," he said, "in the interest of the public. With the same interest at heart I advised him to avoid a lawsuit with Baron Reinach. When he tried to enter into particulars, I stopped him by saying that I was not called upon to act as judge in the matter."

Asked to confirm or deny this statement, Charles de Lesseps said:

"I do not dispute and have not disputed that M. de Freycinet spoke to me in the interest of the public. It was in the same interest that I have Reinach millions."

"I cannot believe," added M. de Freycinet, "that his conversation with me impelled M. de Lesseps to give way to Baron Reinach's demands. What I said made necessary nothing whatever."

Ex-Deputy Chantagrel testified that on the isthmus, a civil engineer who did work for the Panama Canal, had been authorized by M. de Lesseps to offer any sum up to 200,000 francs for M. Chantagrel's vote. M. Chantagrel refused to accept the 200,000, although M. Soullignac argued with him for some time to induce him to take it.

M. Stephane, clerk for M. Prosper, Baron Reinach's partner, testified concerning his experience with a list of more than 100 conspirators who were compromised by the Panama scandal. He had received the list from Baron Reinach, and after the latter's death had delivered it to M. Clemenceau. The list was similar to the one held by M. Andreux.

franco, being less than half the total amount about which had been expended in the actual operations on the canal. The present assets amounted to 200,000,000 francs.

Clemenceau, while on the stand, turned savagely upon Charles de Lesseps and challenged him to contradict the statement he was making. M. de Lesseps remained silent, however, except when Clemenceau was attacking Barbois. Then he nodded assent. M. de Freycinet also several times asked M. de Lesseps to contradict him, although, in the main, he admitted the truth of M. de Lesseps's accusations. Throughout the sitting M. de Lesseps was less vocal than yesterday, and seemed to be weary by the time the trial to which he was subjected by witnesses and judge.

Judge Desjardins has ordered that M. Ranc, Editor of the "Paris," be ordered to attend the next sitting of the court.

Henri Brisson has resigned the presidency of the Parliamentary Committee of Inquiry.

MR. GLADSTONE WOULDN'T RECEIVE THEM. ANTI-IRISH RULERS FROM LEINSTER, MUNSTER AND CONNAUGHT WAIT ON THE CONSERVATIVE LEADERS.

London, March 10.—A large delegation of merchants, bankers and shipowners from Dublin and other places in Leinster, and also from the provinces of Munster and Connaught, waited on Lord Salisbury to-day, with the object of showing that there was a strong opposition to Home Rule in other parts of Ireland besides Ulster. Lord Salisbury was assisted in receiving the visitors by Mr. Balfour, Lord Randolph Churchill and Mr. Goschen. The delegation spoke in strong and earnest language of the disaster to business interests which, they predicted, would follow the creation of a separate government for Ireland. It was also mentioned that Mr. Gladstone had refused to receive the delegation.

Lord Salisbury expressed surprise that Mr. Gladstone should have refused to receive such a respectable delegation of Her Majesty's faithful subjects in Ireland. The refusal, he added, was doubtless owing to the indecent haste with which the Government was pushing the bill for the separation of Ireland from the United Kingdom before it was possible to have the measure duly considered. Lord Salisbury urged the delegation and all other loyal subjects of the Queen in Ireland to keep up their courage. There were signs, he said, of a healthy change in public opinion.

Mr. Jelf, who followed Lord Salisbury, said that the chief hardship to the people of Ireland in the adoption of the separatist policy would be the comparative poverty which would befall the new Government, and become a serious handicap to the progress of the country.

Lord Randolph Churchill spoke in language equally pointed to the Irish division, and he was applauded from separation; and Mr. Goschen expressed strong feelings of financial and industrial calamity which would be the outcome of the success of Mr. Gladstone's scheme.

Mr. Gladstone has been summoned to an audience with the Queen.

TO CONSIDER THE WELSH STUPENDOUS BILL. London, March 10.—In the Convocation of the Province of Canterbury to-day, Dr. Benson, Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate of All England and president of the Convocation, announced that a meeting of the Convocations of Canterbury and York, together with churchwardens, would be held at Whitehall to consider the Welsh stupendous bill, introduced by Home Secretary Asquith in behalf of the Government, in which it is proposed "to prevent for a limited time new appointments to Church of England bishoprics, dignities and benefices in Wales and Monmouthshire, and to restrain for the same period in certain respects the proceedings of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners." The Archbishop said that the bill involved the most serious consequences, and that he would be the first to step forward to the disestablishment of the Church of England in Wales.

THE CIVIL MARRIAGE QUESTION IN HUNGARY. Vienna, March 10.—Cardinal Archbishop Vassanyi, Primate of Hungary, and the other archbishops and bishops of the Roman Catholic Church in Hungary, have presented a memorial to the Emperor and King, Francis Joseph, asking him to protect the Church against the measures introduced by the Hungarian Government, and considered by the parliament, which would be the first step toward the disestablishment of the Church in Hungary by making civil marriage a complete legal fulfillment of the marriage contract.

There is, in this question of the civil marriage in Hungary, which may jeopardize the maintenance of the dual Empire of Austria, an important feature which is usually lost sight of in the dispatches. It relates to baptism and to the religious status of the children of marriages between Protestants and Catholics. The law of 1868 provides that boys shall follow the religion of the father and girls that of the mother. This law was enacted through the influence of the Hungarian Catholics, who are only 3,000,000 against 8,000,000 Catholics, but who really rule the country, in consequence of their intellectual superiority and their political ability. The Roman Catholics, arguing from the liberal ideas of personal liberty, want the abrogation of the law of 1868, and urge that parents should be left free to educate their children in the creed they severally prefer. The Protestants reply that, as long as the civil registers are exclusively in the hands of the clergy, it would be unsafe to rely on these registers, in order exactly to determine status concerning the religious status of children, while the present law is following the creed of the father and girls that of the mother. Still greater security in that regard could be obtained from the institution of civil marriages, the registers of which would be kept by municipal officers.

The Catholic Church recognizes only religious marriages, while in many European countries adhering to the Roman creed civil marriages are the only ones held to be legal. But in those countries the civil marriage is not an obstacle to the religious one, which would prevent the religious marriage from being celebrated. It is to be hoped that the Hungarian protest and his associates will finally accept the new law proposed by the Government, which leaves them free to celebrate religious marriages.

A SETBACK FOR THE GERMAN ARMY BILL. Berlin, March 10.—The Committee on the Army bill has rejected the whole of the second clause, which proposed to increase the complements of the infantry battalions from 538 to 711; of cavalry squadrons from 405 to 477; of the field artillery batteries from 454 to 494; foot artillery battalions, from thirty-one to thirty-seven; pioneer battalions, from sixteen to twenty-four, and the railway engineers, from six to seven battalions. The committee further rejected the clause fixing the peace establishment of 492,000, exclusive of officers and noncommissioned officers, and also voted down Herr Richter's amendment proposing that the peace effective, from October 1, 1893, to December, 1893, should be 486,683, as at present. The committee then adjourned until March 10.

ADVANCED THE MONTE CARLO "PLUNGER" £10,000. London, March 10.—At a meeting to-day of the creditors of Charles Wells, who is commonly known as "Monte Carlo" Wells, on account of his alleged successful "plunging" at the Monte Carlo Casino, and who has been held for trial on various charges of fraudulent fraud, a statement was read which Wells ingeniously made, a statement which Wells asserted that he had prepared.

Wells, whose name was unwilling to make public, had financed him to the extent of £10,000 for his operations at Monte Carlo, and that Wells had realized £20,000 as his own share of the winnings at the casino, and had expended this amount in developing patients and in the purchase of yachts on which he intended to display his inventions.

BARK LOST AND TEN PERSONS DROWNED. Buenos Ayres, March 10.—The British bark Alice M. Craig has been wrecked at Rosario, on the west bank of the Parana, about 230 miles by water from Buenos Ayres. The vessel foundered in a gale with a heavy sea, and the crew of twenty-five men, including the captain and his wife and eight children, were drowned.

The bark sailed from Antwerp on September 8 for Rio de Janeiro, and was last arriving there on December 2, and had been sailing, trading with other ports near there.

FATAL BOATING ACCIDENT AT PANAMA. Panama, March 10.—The American colony here is plunged in grief by a melancholy accident. Mrs. Wilson, the daughter of Henry Schuber, the oldest American resident of Panama, was out boating yesterday afternoon with Captain Shackford and Miss Wilson. The boat was swamped, and the three were thrown into the water. Mrs. Wilson was drowned.

Captain Shackford and Miss Wilson being rescued. The body of Mrs. Wilson has been recovered.

LADY HOWARD DE WALDEN TESTIFIES. London, March 10.—The trial of the Howard de Walden divorce and separation suits was continued to-day. The manager and servants of the Seabrooke Hotel were called as witnesses to support the Baron's charge that his wife had been improperly intimate with Captain Winter. These witnesses testified that Captain Winter had visited Lady Howard de Walden at the Seabrooke Hotel, had taken dinner with her there and had accompanied her afterward to her parlor.

Lady Howard de Walden then took the stand in her own defense. She looked embarrassed, and retained her self-possession remarkably well. She said that she had known Captain Winter for fourteen years. She acknowledged that he had taken dinner with her and visited her parlor at the Seabrooke Hotel, but she swore emphatically that she had never been guilty of the slightest impropriety with him or with any one else. She recounted in detail her visits to Paris and London, and what she had done while there, and she testified positively that Count Jean de Madre had never been in her room at night. The Count, she said, it was true, frequently visited her and her friends, both at Paris and in London, but there was never any secrecy about his visits.

The witness testified that she had dismissed her maid, Miss Crook, because she suspected the servant of improper relations with Count Paul de Madre's valet, Croham. When Miss Crook received notice of dismissal, she wrote to Lord Howard de Walden and caused a scandal. The witness asserted in positive language that Miss Crook's statements as to her mistress's relations with Count Jean de Madre were absolutely false.

THE AMERICAN LINE AND THE IRISH MAILS. London, March 10.—In response to several questions as to the effect of the docking of American line steamships at Southampton would have upon the transmission of the mails from America to Ireland, Arnold Morley, Postmaster-General, says that he will observe the consequence of the abandonment of Queenstown by the American Line, and, if he finds that the change is resulting in the delaying of Irish mails, he will direct the attention of the United States Government to the subject.

END OF THE FESTIVITIES AT SOUTHAMPTON. London, March 10.—The week's festivities with which the arrival of the steamship New-York at Southampton has been celebrated closed this evening with a dinner given by the Southampton city government to the directors of the American Line, the captain of the New-York, and the directors of the railway between Southampton and London.

A BIG RUSSIAN LOAN TO BE PLACED. St. Petersburg, March 10.—An Imperial ukaz authorizes the issue of an internal loan of 100,000,000 rubles at 4 1/2 per cent. The loan is to be placed by the sale of bonds by the Imperial Bank. The bank has given notice that it will undertake hereafter the purchase and sale of foreign debts and the issue of bills of exchange for places abroad.

NO DEFALCATION IN MR. NEWS'S OFFICE. London, March 10.—Consul General News authorizes the absolute denial of all the stories and rumors of defalcations in the Consular office at London, and the statement that there is no foundation whatever for the stories.

MONSIGNOR SATOLLI'S PLACE OF RESIDENCE. Rome, March 10.—It is reported that the Pope has decided finally that Archbishop Satolli shall reside in Washington.

SIX POSTOFFICE THIEVES CAUGHT. SAID TO BE THE GANG THAT HAVE BEEN OPERATING IN THE SUBURBS. The Brooklyn police arrested six young men last evening who are believed to have been implicated in the robbery of a number of rural postoffices in the last year. Suspicion was directed to them after the recent robbery at Long Island City, in the Postoffice, Brooklyn, and detectives visited their rooms at No. 135 High-st., and arrested Martin Kennedy, thirty years old; Michael Conway, twenty-nine years old; Joseph McCarthy, twenty-three years old; Michael Nagle, nineteen years old, and Michael Joseph, nineteen years old. They rented rooms from Joseph Dobbs, who is believed to have been the leader of the gang of burglars. He has been in the Mount Pleasant, on Staten Island, at intervals during the last year, and was there yesterday. The detectives visited the institution and, after getting him off the Government property on some excuse, arrested him. The charges against the gang are of robbing the postoffice of John F. Treacy, at No. 56 Court-st., Brooklyn, on March 2, and of robbing the postoffice at Larchmont, N. Y., on March 9, when \$80 in stamps was secured. A "penalty" envelope was found in one of the rooms, which had been taken from the postoffice, and was conclusive proof of the robbery. When the men were brought with this a confession was secured from them.

In the last year robberies have taken place in more than a score of country postoffices, the methods being the same in all of them. Among those robbed have been offices at Sayville, Northport, Bay Ridge and Bath Beach, on Long Island, and others on Staten Island and in Westchester County. It is believed that the men under arrest have been implicated in all of these. They were locked up in the Fulton station last evening, and will be arraigned before Judge Smith at the New York Police Court to-morrow.

ATTACKED BY ROBBERS IN THEIR HOME. TWO NEWARK WOMEN SUCCEEDED IN FRIGHTENING AWAY THE THIEVES. A bold attempt was made by four robbers yesterday afternoon to plunder the house of John D. Toppin, at No. 21 Grove-st., Newark, directly opposite the rear of the Essex County Courthouse. The street is only about 100 yards long, and runs from Market-st. to Springfield-ave., two of the most-travelled thoroughfares in the city. The windows of the Courthouse and the County buildings overlook the entire street.

Mrs. Toppin was attending to her household duties on the first floor at 3 o'clock, and her sister, Miss Sadie Wood, was reading on the second floor. The doorbell rang, and Mrs. Toppin, going to the door, was confronted by four men who stood on the front stoop. One of them asked gruffly: "Where is Mr. Toppin?" Mrs. Toppin replied: "He's not at home."

Without saying anything further the men rushed into the hallway, and three of them seized Mrs. Toppin while the fourth ran upstairs to rifle the house. Mrs. Toppin tried to free herself from the intruders, and in the struggle succeeded in uttering a half-stifled scream, which was heard by her sister. The man who had started upstairs had in the mean time reached the room where Miss Wood was seated, and as she arose to answer her sister's scream, he rushed to a window, and succeeded in raising it and screaming for help before the robber reached her. Before she could scream a second time she was dragged from the window, and the man attempted to clap a chloroform-soaked handkerchief over her mouth and nose. She struggled desperately, and in the struggle the man dropped his revolver, which probably saved Miss Wood.

While the three men were upstairs, Mrs. Toppin was struggling in the arms of her captors, until Miss Wood's scream was heard. This frightened the men and they relinquished their hold on Mrs. Toppin and fled. She pursued them to the door and screamed loudly for help. Her cries caused the remaining thief to lose Miss Wood and he dropped out of a rear window, and by jumping a fence reached High-st., and he too made good his escape.

The screams of the women were heard by Samuel Macchero and William Johnson, clerks in the County Register's office, and they rushed across the street, but they were too late to anticipate the would-be robbers. They found the three men running, and they had escaped serious bodily injury. They also found the revolver and handkerchief which the men had left in the hallway.

The police were looking for the men late last night.

SUPPOSED TO BE A FORMER NEW-YORKER. Postmaster Van Cott has received a letter from T. S. Indian Territory, which reports the finding near that place of the body of a man supposed to be E. D. Merritt, formerly of New-York. No accurate description is furnished of the man, but the writer says that "there are some remarkable marks that will help to identify him," and that some of the teeth have been found. There were no papers in the man's clothing.

A BIG BLAZE IN BOSTON.

LIVES AND PROPERTY LOST. SEVERAL PERSONS KILLED AND MORE THAN A SCORE INJURED.

BUILDINGS AND THEIR CONTENTS VALUED AT NEARLY FIVE MILLIONS DESTROYED—PANIC—STRIKEN EMPLOYEES LEAP FROM WINDOWS TO ESCAPE DEATH IN THE FIRE—GOVERNOR RUSSELL ORDERS OUT THE MILITIA—THRILLING SCENES AND INCIDENTS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] Boston, March 10.—Boston has again met with heavy loss by fire, this time the most serious since Thanksgiving Day, 1889, when the loss was about five millions, and when two firemen were killed and a dozen injured. Before the fire to-day was got under control it had burned over more than a square, had reduced to ashes several of the magnificent new buildings recently completed on the territory burned over three and a half years ago, had consumed property valued by a conservative estimate at \$4,500,000, had been attended by scenes of panic and distress never before equalled here in the memory of people now living, and had destroyed several, perhaps many, human lives, and mangled or maimed at least thirty persons, some of whom will die of their injuries. The names of the dead and injured, as far as known, are as follows:

DEAD. MEADOWCRAFT, Frederick, of No. 46 Chestnut-st., Cambridge, seventy years old; jumped from the third story and fell on his head; died on the way to the hospital. RICHARDS, Leonard H., merchant. Died at the hospital. He was a member of the firm of R. B. Russell & Co., manufacturers of hats, at No. 283 Lincoln-st., and lived at No. 21 Cambridge-st.

INJURED. DENKINSON, John F., of No. 1917 Washington-st., shoulder dislocated. DEVLIN, Michael, Lincolnton, twenty-five; fractured skull. EVAN, ———, District chief; nervous prostration, caused by jumping out of a window and falling on a wire. FLYNN, Margaret, aged twenty-six; scalp wound and internal injuries. FLYNN, Mary, Winchester; badly cut. GASKINS, Charles, colored, of No. 41 Warwick-st., injured. HASKINS, Michael, of Whitman-st.; thigh injured. LYONS, John J., of No. 89 London-st., East Boston. MURRAY, Daniel R., aged nineteen, of No. 1029 Dorchester-ave.; compound fracture of leg. MURRAY, Paul, same address; leg hurt. PERRIN, Ada, aged twenty-two, of No. 6 Darling-st.; seriously injured. POND, Benjamin, member of Steamer No. 1, Somerville; seriously injured by falling walls. REDPATH, A. W., Newtonville; badly cut. RICHARDS, Robert J., a saddlerman, of Charleston, age twenty-five; injured.

RICHARDS, Maria, of Tremont-st.; injured slightly on the leg by jumping out of a window. RYAN, George L., of No. 102 Charles-st.; arm broken. RYAN, James, No. 3 Kimball-st.; robbery; injured. RYAN, John P., No. 32 Albion-st.; injured ankle. SHEPPARD, Joshua, aged thirty-four, of Cambridge; ankle injured. SULLIVAN, John J., of No. 80 Lincoln-st., East Boston, member of Engine No. 4; fell from a building; injuries serious.

TWELVE Templeton, driver of Horse 10, of South Boston; leg fractured. WELLS, Charles J., aged thirty, of No. 34 Montross-st., Roxbury; multiple injuries.

To-day's fire began soon after 4 o'clock this afternoon. It started in the Ames Building at Lincoln and Essex sts., not far from the starting point of the fire of 1889.

The principal occupants of the building were the Woonsoket Rubber Company and the Horace Partridge Company, dealers in the Consolidated Lasting Machine Company, M. A. Packard & Co., boots and shoes. M. Appleton, underwear; the Hancock Shoe Company, Clifton, Larrabee & Co., hosiery and underwear; the United States Rubber Company, Barber Bros., linen thread and twine; Amazon Machine Company, Merrick Thread Company, T. C. Peters, embroidered goods; Redpath Bros., manufacturing boots and shoes; S. B. Thim & Co., boots and shoes; B. F. Japuth & Co., boots and shoes; Tapley Machine Company, sample shoe machinery; Hathaway, Soule & Harrington, boots and shoes; J. S. Fogg & Co., shoes; Metropolitan Sewage Commission, Ewing Bros., blankets; C. W. Spurr & Co., veneers and carved goods; Cape Cod Glass Company, Scheuer & Bros., fancy leather and plush; American Pin Company, Emich & Loddell, collars and cuffs; Otto Krisman, jobbers in boots and shoes; D. W. Howland, patent medicines.

The fire started in the Woonsoket Rubber Company's rooms and spread so rapidly that the employees escaped with difficulty. The flames, fed by the combustible material, spread rapidly in all directions, and before they were subdued the area of the fire was bounded by Essex, Lincoln, Kingston and Tufts sts. The entire States Hotel, was destroyed, and the big hotel was damaged to a considerable extent. On the west fire spread to Kingston-st., burning off the two upper stories of Brown, Durall & Co.'s fine brownstone stock of dry goods. On the north, the fire leaped across Essex-st., to the five-story building at Essex and Columbia sts., occupied by the paper-box manufactory of W. S. Barker. This was destroyed. The big John S. Farlow building on Lincoln-st., running from Essex-st. to Tufts-st., was filled by several wholesale houses, the Singer Sewing Machine Company and other concerns. The fire on Lincoln-st., burned as far as Proctor, Hunt & Co.'s building, where it stopped. In the rear of the Farlow building are the large bonded warehouses and distillery of John H. French & Co. The warehouses, containing 1,100 barrels of rum, were destroyed, involving a loss of about \$55,000.

At 4:25 o'clock the alarm was rung in from box No. 52. It was soon followed by a second and then a general alarm. The cause of the fire is at present unknown, but the start is described by those nearest it in the toy department of Partridge & Co. as resembling the bursting of a firecracker. The flames spread with incredible rapidity, and in a few moments the entire interior of the building was burning. There were many employees of Partridge & Co. at work at the time, and the other floor of the building was sprinkled with burning things. The usual avenues of escape were at once cut off, and then he came a scramble for life which sickened beholders. The panic-stricken inmates fled to windows and roof tops, some escaped by "shinning" down telephone poles, others by leaping into blankets and nets. Several jumped to the pavement, six or eight stories, and were terribly mangled, and others, how many cannot be told, fell back into the flames or were overcome by the dense black smoke which suffocated all who did not speedily escape.

The entire fire department of the city was speedily on the scene; the departments of Somerville, Cambridge, Newton, Quincy and Brockton arrived later by train, and aid was requested to be in readiness from more distant cities. Fortunately, further help was not needed. Vast crowds of people began at once to flock to the scene, and as a matter of precaution Governor Russell specially ordered two companies of militia under arms, and proceeded to the fire in person, where he was soon joined by Mayor Matthews. The committee of the City Council appointed to investigate the causes of recent large fires was in session at City Hall, but immediately adjourned to the scene of the conflagration. The fire spread rapidly from building to building, and

despite the heroic efforts of the entire fire system of Suffolk County was not controlled until the whole square bounded by Essex-st. on the north, Lincoln on the east, Tufts on the south, and Kingston on the west, had been leveled; also one building north of Essex-st., extending along Columbia-st.; three more on the east side of Lincoln-st., and one corner of the United States Hotel, south of Tufts-st., which corner contained the Emergency Hospital.

The conflagration as viewed from a distance was grand. A dense pall of black smoke covered that section of the city, and as darkness came on this was lighted up by the flames, while occasional tongues of fire and burning embers shot up volcano-like into the ebony mass. Near to the scene was awful. While the Ames building was burning there were repeated explosions like fireworks, mingled with the hoarse shouts of firemen, the clanging and puffing of engines, the crash of falling walls, the rumble from hurrying teams and the surging of the vast crowds which soon gathered, and rushed to and fro in everybody's way.

The police service was admirable. The streets were promptly roped off, and in the right sections. The wires were, as usual, in the way, and in many places lay in tangled masses. But the current had been turned off. The employees of many large stores in the vicinity were on duty until the fire was under control, ready to move out goods if necessary. Jordan, Marsh & Co. kept 2,000 men for that purpose. Many proprietors near the fire moved their most valuable merchandise, as did also several panicky householders. The three largest buildings burned, the Ames, Lincoln and Brown-Durall were of modern construction and built in the most non-combustible style possible for mercantile use. The Brown-Durall had front walls of sandstone, and rear walls of brick. The Ames and Lincoln were much like it. Incoming trains from all directions were heavily loaded during the early evening and probably over 50,000 outsiders helped to pick the streets in the vicinity while the fire was in progress.

A conservative estimate of the total loss is \$4,500,000. The insurance will amount to about \$4,000,000. No attempt will be made to compile the insurance to-night.

George M. McCall, bookkeeper at the burned out store of Horace Partridge & Co., says: "I was standing at my desk balancing the day's account, when suddenly I was startled by the cry of fire in the building. I had scarcely recovered from my surprise when the engines arrived. My first impulse was to seize the books, and calling two of the clerks standing near me we got the most valuable ones downstairs safely. As near as I can recollect five minutes elapsed between the cry of 'fire' and the arrival of the engines, yet in that time the whole building seemed to be in one seething mass of flames. In the rush from the building employees were knocked down and trampled upon. The pitiful appeals of the young girls, mingled with the shouts of the men, as they strove to pilot them to a place of safety, was one of the most exciting incidents I ever witnessed in my life. I hope never to see such a one again. I have no doubt that many of the firm's employees, who were on the fifth and sixth floors of the building, have met with serious injuries, if some of them are not now dead."

There were about thirty clerks employed by the company.

William S. Rumrill, of Dean, Chase & Co., says: "I first saw a man, with his hair literally singed off his head, rushing up the street to the nearest fire alarm box. I sprang to the door and saw a spectacle that appalled me. A torrent of flame was literally pouring out of the windows in the center front on the second floor of the Ames building. The people inside were throwing books out of the windows and men and boys were picking them up. Very soon upon the parapet, way up above the street, I saw four men and one woman clinging to the stone-work."

"There was no such thing as getting a ladder up to them, owing to the network of wires. That is the worst corner for wires in the city of Boston, and the whole street is in peril from them. We watched the quartet as they clung for a few minutes only, while the crowd in the street stood in breathless silence. Then the four, one after another, jumped off. Down they came a height of fully six stories and struck solidly on the frozen ground. Oh, it was horrible! horrible! You should have heard the groan that went up from that throng in the street. Every one of the four was unconscious when reached and all were terribly injured. There could hardly be a whole bone in their bodies. I saw two of them rushed by on a shutter."

For the first time in Boston's fire history the overhead wire system proved the means of saving a life. When the fire in the Brown-Durall Building was at its height, the form of a man, who subsequently proved to be District Chief Egan, of East Boston, was seen at an eighth-story window. He boldly seized one of the large insulated cables which contain a large number of electric wires, and proceeded to cross to the outside building, hand over hand. He had gone only a few feet when it became apparent he could not last long, and greatly to the crowd's relief he slipped, and the half-inch cable, which slightly sagged, and slowly and tediously made his way toward the building, No. 119 Kingston-st., to which the cable ran. A large number of life-saving nets, canvases and cloths were produced, and firemen, police and bystanders were with each other in holding them, while others hoarsely shouted to the imperiled man to drop. To have done so seemed to court instant death. His white, agonized face could be seen as he slowly made his way over the cable. Several times the voice of the vast crowd was hushed as it seemed that the poor being hanging there was lost. All at once the crowd broke into a cheer, which seemed to infuse new life into the flagging spirit of the fireman. He reached midway between the two buildings, and all saw that he could only hang out a few minutes more he would be saved.

Every inch of the street below was now covered with nets. At this point the cloud of smoke cleared away, and the man was recognized as Chief Egan, who had only been out of the house a short time where he was confined with a broken collar-bone and other injuries received by falling on the ice. A squad of men ran upon the building, No. 119 Kingston-st., and slowly lowered the cable to which Egan was hanging. At the same time Hook and Ladder No. 14 erected a ladder to meet the descending man. The cable was payed out slowly, and the exhausted man gradually came nearer terra firma. His body swung in close to the burning building, from which issued dense clouds of smoke, when he was rescued by two stories from the ground. In a few seconds he was swung into the arms of his comrades, released his hold, and, as weak as a rat, was carried from the scene, truly watched from the jaws of death. A shout of triumph and applause came forth from the throats of the vast assembly.

Francis Galloupe says: "I was going down Superior-st., just as the fire started. I looked down Lincoln-st., and saw a sheet of flame shooting out half-way across the street from the second story of the building occupied by the Woonsoket Rubber Company. One steamer had just arrived in front of the building and the hose was being stretched. I saw men, women and girls trying to get out from the upper stories. They were excited. I shouted to them: 'Don't jump; the ladders will be here in a minute!' But they were too frightened. One man jumped from the second story and caught a wire. He hung there till exhausted, then dropped. I could not see whether the fall killed him or not. I saw another man jump to the telegraph pole near. He slid down without injury. Several took horse-blankets and called to the firemen to

RAIDS ON POORROOMS.

THE PRISONERS DISCHARGED, HOWEVER.

THE LAW-WHAT MR. BYRNES SAYS.

Arrests were made by the police at a number of the poorrooms in the city yesterday by order of Superintendent Byrnes. There were no wholesale raids on the poorrooms, the arrests being made only in a few of the least conspicuous of them. There was a report